

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

March 9, 2011

Rep. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman
Sen. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 1092 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DNA DATA BANK OVERSIGHT
PANEL**

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

The Department of Public Safety supports the proposal to include the Chief Public Defender or their designee to the DNA oversight panel. The Division of Scientific Services is a non-partisan forensic laboratory. It conducts forensic analysis for both State's Attorney's offices and the Public Defender's office. Over the years, the Division of Scientific Services has worked collaboratively with members of the Public Defender's office on grant proposals, and they have been invited to participate in the DNA Oversight Panel's review process to ensure all voices are heard from within the criminal justice system. This bill would provide statutory authority to the Chief Public Defender's office and foster greater cooperation and collegiality amongst those involved in criminal justice.

It will also appropriate in that DNA evidence is a tremendous tool for determining the truth. The truth may be beneficial to the prosecution or it may be beneficial to the defense. It is a tool of justice and it is appropriate that all interested parties be on the oversight panel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colonel Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER